

---

## Touch Points for Evangel's Prayer Vigil team

For the week of March 16, 2014

---

This series is aimed to support our "Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel" initiative. It is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness, prayer and outreach. "The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community." (From the overview document, available at [www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf](http://www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf) )

---

### God's Will God's Way

[The angel said to Balaam,] "I have come to block your way because you are stubbornly resisting me. Three times the donkey saw me and shied away. . . ." Then Balaam confessed to the angel of the Lord, "I have sinned. I did not realize you were standing in the road to block my way. I will go back home if you are against my going." But the angel of the Lord told him, "Go with these men, but you may say only what I tell you to say."

Numbers 22:32-35

---

#### Prayer for the Week

Lord, thank you for your love that opens my eyes to see you on every path of life and leads me in obeying your will your way! Help me to follow you, whether it is to move forward into new territory or to return to a previously visited place. Only you know the direction I need to go. I will trust in your leadership and rely on your character. Thank you for leading me exactly where I need to go!

#### Notable Quote

God can't give us happiness and peace apart from himself because there is no such thing.

*C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)*

#### Reflection

In today's reading Balaam was going forth to do as God had instructed him, but he was going with the wrong motives. His wholehearted obedience turned half-hearted because of his greed for wealth and prestige. His covetousness blinded him to the angel of the Lord who was blocking the path on which he traveled, because his eyes were focused on hoped-for riches and not on the hope-filled mission. Balaam ceased to reside in prayer—in conscious awareness of God's presence. However, three times God was there narrowing the road in attempts to stop Balaam and get his attention. What path is God "narrowing" in your life so that you feel his resistance? God loves us enough that if we persist in doing things our way and ignore his presence or resist his will, he will derail us, just as he did Balaam's talking donkey, in order to get our attention and restore our fellowship with him.

---

### PRAYER PROMPTS

- It you or someone you know is finding God "narrowing the road," consider the need to confess any wrongdoing or wrong attitude, pray for God's forgiveness and illumination of the way he would have you go.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday's worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave's message from his series on Exodus, "Let My People Go: When This Baby Grows Up" (Exodus 2:1-10)\*. Pray for opportunities to apply these lessons throughout the week, within your own circle of influence and beyond.
- Continue to remember one family from your circle of influence for intercession. They could be a neighbor, coworker or relative. Pray for their struggles to be resolved, their health improved and their relationships strengthened. Ask the Lord to bring them to a fuller, closer relationship with Himself in faith and obedience.
- Continue to pray for opportunities to invite people to our services. Ask the Lord to open doors of conversation, connection or compassion with others to enable an offer of attendance.
- Continue to pray for our "Stepping Out in Faith" initiative: for the identification of a church planter, for unity and commitment as we seek to bring success to this evangelistic effort by growing ourselves. Pray for Mark Albrecht of Converge Mid-America as he seeks the Lord's direction to find the best person for the Wheaton area—and for the contact Pastor Dave had with one potential planter in the area. In the meantime, renew your dedication to meet Bill France's challenge to pray that God will lead 25 adults and 50 children to Evangel—a seemingly impossible task! But not impossible for God! Pray persistently that God will bring a great harvest in 2014!

\*A podcast of the sermon, plus pdf documents of the sermon outline and PowerPoint notes are posted on the website, normally by Monday.

---

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website ([www.evbapt.org](http://www.evbapt.org)) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.